### **American River Basin**

## Attachment 12: Disadvantaged Community Assistance

#### Overview

Disadvantaged communities (DACs) are largely interspersed throughout the service areas of water suppliers in the American River Basin (ARB) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) planning region. While meeting the regional needs through the implementation of this proposal will provide overall benefits to the DACs in the ARB region, this proposal also includes two projects that will directly address critical water supply needs of DACs within the ARB Region. This attachment describes how the needs are met. Note that because the combined local cost share of the regional projects in this Proposal greatly exceed the required funding match in the guidelines, we are not specifically requesting a funding match waiver for the projects that will benefit the DACs.

#### Documentation of the Presence and Needs of DACs

A DAC is defined as a community with an annual Median Household Income (MHI) less than then 80% of the statewide annual MHI. The *Proposition 84 & Proposition 1E IRWM Guidelines* (Guidelines, DWR, August 2010) require the use of 2000 U.S. Census (Census) data or more recent in evaluating the presence of DACs in the region. Since the 2010 Census data are not yet fully available, 2000 Census data were used for analysis. According to the 2000 Census data, the California statewide MHI was \$47,493; therefore 80% of California's MHI is \$37,994. MHI and population data were downloaded from the U.S. Census website (www.census.gov) along with census tracts for Sacramento, Placer, and El Dorado Counties. Census tracts are small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of the counties that are designed to be relatively homogeneous units with respect to population characteristics, economic status, and living conditions. The data are presented in Figure 1. These data show that a significant portion of the ARB Region consists of DACs. The population residing in these DACs makes up just under 30% of the ARB Region's population.

The vast majority of the DAC areas in the ARB Region are located within the service area of an urban retail water supplier as well as being served by a public wastewater treatment plant. Thus the water supply challenges faced by these DACs differ from those in some other parts of the state, such as in the San Joaquin Valley, where entire communities lack access to safe, reliable, and affordable water supplies and adequate wastewater treatment facilities. The fundamental needs of DACs in the ARB region for safe and reliable water supplies are generally being met. The remaining critical needs relate to the cost of connection fees, the affordability of water and wastewater rates, the inability to take advantage of water conservation measures, and less than optimal water distribution system conditions. The ARB Region outlined a comprehensive strategy to address the needs of DACs in its IRWM Plan Update Work Plan, for which funding was recommended under DWR's IRWM Planning Grant Program. While the planning work is ongoing, this implementation grant application proposes to jumpstart DAC participation in water conservation programs through a variety of measures. These actions will both support the efforts of the region to reduce per capita water use and reduce the cost of water to economically disadvantaged customers. Additionally, implementation of this proposal will optimize the water system delivering water to DACs located in the southern part of the City of Sacramento.

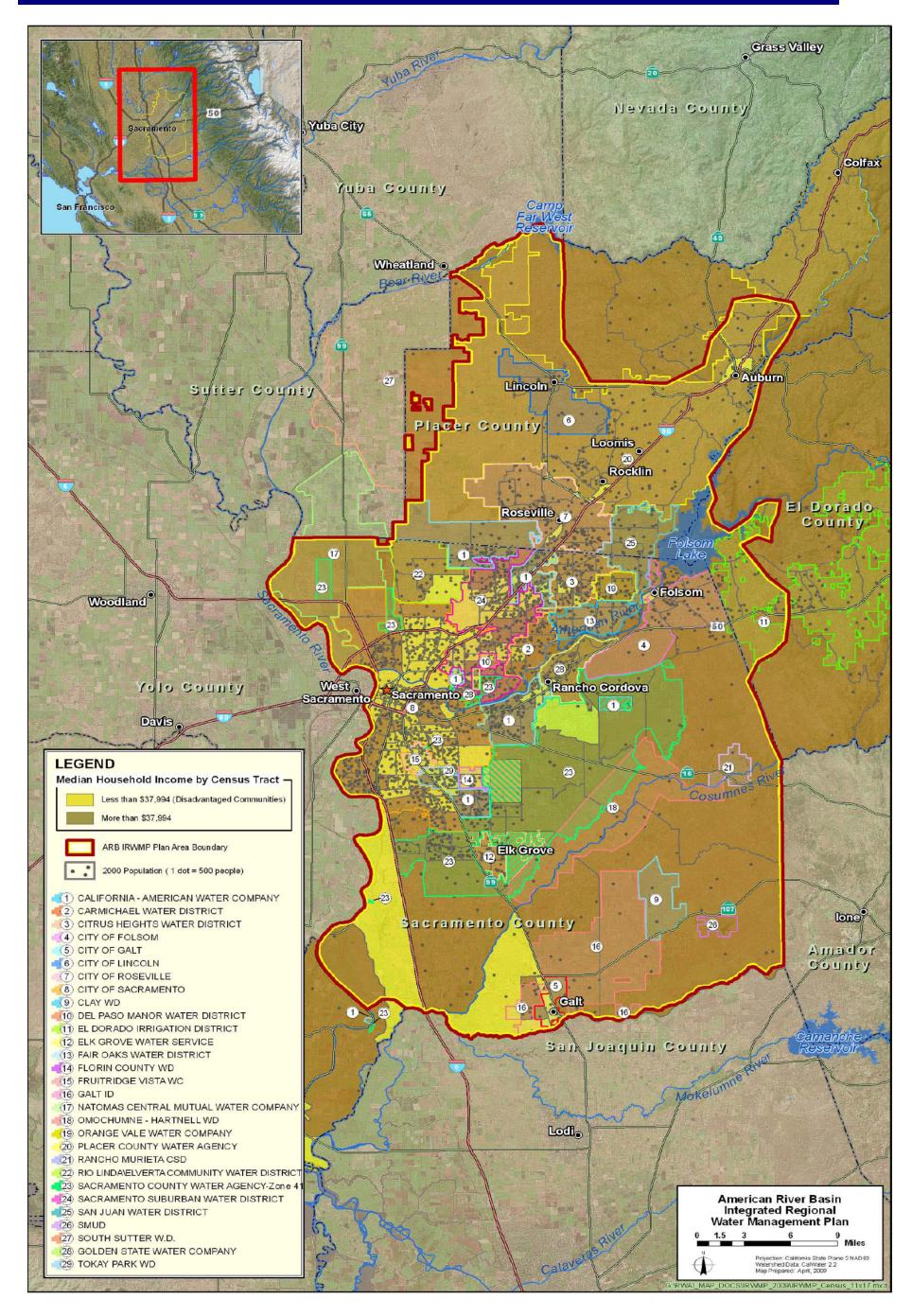


Figure 1: Disadvantaged Communities in the ARB Region

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### Description of Proposed Project and Targeted Benefits to DACs

As previously discussed, DACs in the ARB Region are largely interspersed throughout the service areas of water suppliers within the Region and have few unmet water supply or water quality needs. In general, meeting the regional needs through this proposal will provide overall benefits to the DACs throughout the region. However, this proposal does include two projects that will directly benefit areas identified as DACs. These projects include the Regional Indoor and Outdoor Water Efficiency Project being implemented by the Regional Water Authority and the City of Sacramento's Shasta Park Reservoir and Well Project, as described in the following sections.

#### Regional Indoor and Outdoor Water Efficiency Project

Disadvantaged communities in the greater Sacramento area have not typically participated in large numbers in traditional water conservation rebate programs. Reasons for this include a greater proportion of rental properties, a limited ability to finance their share of required repairs or improvements, and cultural barriers to participating with governmental agencies. The **Regional Indoor and Outdoor Water Efficiency Project** proposes developing and implementing water conservation programs that better serve the social and economic realities of DACs. The project is briefly described below, and fully detailed in Attachment 3 of this Proposal.

The Regional Indoor and Outdoor Water Efficiency Project will include a number of measures from which residents in DACs may benefit, but one major program element is specifically targeted to the needs of DACs. With the requested grant funding, RWA and its members will provide complete interior water conservation retrofits for approximately 1,100 households in the greater Sacramento area. A target of 75% (or 825) of the retrofits will be completed in the identified DACs within the region. At no cost to the customer, the makeover will include a standard survey of interior water use, and direct installation of indoor water efficiency devices including a high efficiency toilet, a low flow showerhead, and faucet aerators. Using pre-screened certified plumbers, the project's interior surveys will follow the approach outlined by the California Urban Water Conservation Council. RWA will make every effort to select plumbing contractors from the DACs that will be served by the program. This will further help the economy of the DACs as well as helping to overcome the barriers to dealing with governmental agencies. A typical customer could be expected to save approximately 18,000 gallons of water annually, which translates to roughly a 20 gallons per capita per day (gpcd) decrease in water use.

There is a high degree of certainty that the water savings benefits will accrue. The water savings due to replacement of high water using plumbing fixtures is well documented. The overall improvement may actually exceed that of traditional rebate programs for water efficient toilets by targeting toilets that might not otherwise be replaced because of financial constraints. The specific DAC census tracts that will benefit cannot be fully identified, since the program will be regional, and the levels of participation may vary. No new operations and maintenance obligations will be created for either the water suppliers or the customers.

### Shasta Park Reservoir and Well Project

The **Shasta Park Reservoir and Well Project** is a water supply project which benefits DACs within the City of Sacramento. The City's 2005 *Water Distribution Master Plan* identified additional customer demands due to significant growth in the area and detailed the need for additional groundwater wells to

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meet those demands. Additionally, the master plan documented the need for distribution system upgrades in order to correct deficiencies (specifically, low pressures and reduced emergency and fire suppression water supplies) that affect the southeast portion of Sacramento, a region known to include DACs. The Shasta Park Reservoir and Well Project meets both of these needs through the installation of a 2 mgd groundwater well, a 4 million gallon (MG) reservoir and a booster pump station at Shasta Park.

During an average year, the Shasta Park Well will operate 65% of the time, producing 1,462 acre-feet per year (AFY). In dry years, the well operation will increase to 100% of the time, producing 2,250 AFY and offsetting surface water diversions, thereby reducing the impact on the lower American River. In wet years, the well will only be operated 15% of the time, producing 337 AFY of supply. The Shasta Park Reservoir and Well Project also contains an educational aspect. Since the project site is near a library and park, informational kiosks will be installed to inform passersby about the City of Sacramento's water system and the importance of sustainable water resource management. The tank will provide for greater system pressures for residential customers as well as improved pressures for firefighting operations in a disadvantaged area of south Sacramento. The tank is located adjacent to a community park, a community college, and commercial areas, which will minimize negative impacts to area residents. There is a high certainty that the benefits will be seen by the DACs of the southern portion of the City of Sacramento.

## **Documentation of DAC Representation and Participation**

The DACs within the ARB Region are not discrete, isolated communities as in some parts of the State. Water and wastewater services are provided to a majority of residents in these DACs by public agencies. In addition, investor owned utilities regulated by the public utilities commission serve some customers in DACs.

While the update of the ARB IRWM Plan will seek to directly include representatives from DACs, such as local and ethnic chambers of commerce and community groups, DACs are currently represented on the proposed projects through their elected officials, including city council members, county supervisors, and water district board members. All of these entities have formal public meetings, as well as public outreach through workshops, and mail communications.

The Regional Water Authority Board of Directors, the governing regional water management group for the ARB IRWM Region, is also a public agency. DAC representatives included on the RWA Board include elected officials from City of Sacramento, Sacramento Suburban Water District, Sacramento County Water Agency, El Dorado Irrigation District, Placer County Water Agency, Carmichael Water District, and Citrus Heights Water District. A letter of support for the Regional Indoor and Outdoor Water Efficiency Project portion of the proposal is attached from Sacramento City Councilwoman Bonnie Panell whose district will directly benefit from these projects. The City will conduct additional outreach meetings with the community as planning for the project proceeds.

This program is designed to address the potential inequity of past water conservation programs, whereby all rate payers helped to fund rebates for efficient plumbing fixtures, but DACs did not fully participate for the reasons cited. No new environmental justice issues are foreseen from any of the projects in the current proposal.



OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

## CITY OF SACRAMENTO CALIFORNIA

BONNIE PANNELL

COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT EIGHT

December 23, 2010

John Woodling
Executive Director
Regional Water Authority
5620 Birdcage Street, Suite 180
Citrus Heights, CA 95610

Dear Mr. Woodling:

I am writing to express my support for the Regional Water Authority's (RWA) Water Conservation Makeover program that targets benefits to disadvantaged communities. As a Sacramento City Council member, I appreciate the efforts RWA and its members have taken to fill a gap that has existed in past water conservation programs in disadvantaged areas of the city.

Our past efforts on rebate-based water conservation programs, such as for efficient toilets, have not been widely implemented in economically neglected areas. Participation in these programs has been financially infeasible. The direct-install nature of the proposed program will provide for a more equitable opportunity for all communities to participate in conserving water and lowering their monthly water bills. This is increasingly important as the City of Sacramento aggressively pursues water meter retrofits and volumetric billing.

I look forward to working with the staff of Sacramento's Utilities Department and the Regional Water Authority in implementing this important program in my district and throughout the Sacramento region. Please contact Matthew Bryant of my staff if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

**BONNIE PANNELL** 

COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT EIGHT

BP:klb